



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Human Services
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37219-1602

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2003

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Doug Hutchison at (615) 313-4749

DHS TO ADMINISTER SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

NASHVILLE, TN--The Department of Human Services will administer Tennessee's federally funded Summer Food Service Program for the summer of 2003.

Each year, state Human Services officials contract with local sponsors who are responsible for providing the free meals and snacks to children. Last year, 44 sponsors operated over 1,100 sites at locations such as parks, recreation centers, schools, churches, playgrounds, residential camps and public housing complexes. These agencies were reimbursed \$5.3 million for serving one or more meals to 39,000 children a day. All totaled, over 3.2 million meals were served. However, the Department's program reached only 9% of the children eligible for assistance under Tennessee's School Lunch Program. To serve more children, additional sponsors and sites are needed.

Sponsorship of the program is available to public and private nonprofit school food authorities; state, county or municipal governments; public or private nonprofit colleges and universities participating in the National Youth Sports Program; residential public or private nonprofit summer camps; and nonprofit organizations.

Sponsors must agree to serve meals to all children in attendance regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. For information on sponsoring the SFSP, contact David Farmer or Doug Hutchison, preferably before March 31, 2003, at:

**Tennessee Department of Human Services
Adult and Family Programs
Citizens Plaza Building, 14th Floor
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37248-9500
Telephone: (615) 313-4749**

The deadline for sponsors to submit applications is May 1, 2003.

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Congress established the Summer Food Service Program in 1968 to ensure that during school vacation needy children receive the same high quality, nutritious meals during the summer months when the National School Lunch Program is not in operation.

Children who participate in the program must be 18 years of age or younger. Persons over 18 years of age who are mentally or physically disabled and who participate in a public or private non-profit school program designed especially for them are also eligible to participate.